Dear Js,

5/14/74

A few minutes ago I had a cal from Dick. I have never told you naything about him except that he is a lawyer, has been a publisher, is in publishing law today, and to my knowledge represents publishers, among other things.

His call was not prompted by what you know about the WG book. Rather it was something else. Dell had just told him that its printing of the Nixon Transcripts is the fastest-selling book it has ever done. Naturally, he wanted to know if I had any ideas, and at that point I asked his permission to turn on the tape recorder, at which he laughed and agreed. For it happens that AT THE OUTSET I had precisely such a book in mind and because of it had sent a check to the GPO for multiple copies of the official copies. I then last Thursday discussed with the head of the history dept of the local college the possibility of getting some summer work from students on this project.

I have also specified that while it is my idea and I expect a fair share, I also expect to be a consultant, made off the cuff suggestions at which he grabbed, and expect compensation as a consultant.

The Sayings of Chairman Richard, red covered, ot he selected from the official copy and reproduced in facsimile by offset, wherever possible bracketed with contrary selections from the same source and contradictory statements from his public statements on the same subject/material.

Because I am not up to all that I am into and because I want to do, regardless of profitability, what I think it likely others will not, I have declined to do this essentially simple thing. Instead I suggested to him a man with a remarkable sense of humor with whom I know he has had a past business/publishing relationship. I told him that in the event this man declined, I had others in mind. First of all the two of you, and not only because you know the relevant materials but because you have such fines senses of humor. Next, Lesar, who is, as we all are, already too busy.

So, this is really to ask two things: if the guy with the name won't go for it, would you; and if not, would you, as you read these obscenities, mark and makr suggestions?

I think the time has come for something like this.

You should see the antecedent, the book on which I almost sold the IPS some years ago, "If There Is Such a Place," the Friedheim papers, they might be called.

No time for other details because must leave momentarily and mailing this then can speed the possibility of your reactions.

Best,